

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01293 271837Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----061454 271839Z /43
P 271820Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5239

S E C R E T GENEVA 01293

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, JANUARY 27, 1978 (SALT TWO
1583)

REF: A. SALT TWO 1585, B. SALT TWO 1586, C. SALT TWO
1584, D. STATE 020232

1. AT JANUARY 27 PLENARY (SENATOR TOWER PRESENT) SEMENOV
CONFIRMED PREVIOUS SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR 2250 OVERALL AG-
GREGATE, 18 MONTHS FOR DISMANTLING BEGINNING JANUARY 1,
1981, AND 1250 MIRV AGGREGATE. ADDITIONAL ARGUMENTS FOR
SOVIET POSITION WERE: DECISIONS REGARDING DISMANTLING
SHOULD AWAIT RESOLUTION OF PROTOCOL ISSUES BY END OF
1980; 18 MONTHS IS "MINIMALLY NECESSARY" TO ACHIEVE RE-
DUCTION OF 150; AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS PRECLUDE YEAR-
ROUND SLBM LAUNCHER DISMANTLING. HE ADDED THAT SOVIET
DISMANTLING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT "EVENLY AND CONSISTENT-
LY." WITH RESPECT TO SS-16, SEMENOV TABLED LANGUAGE (REF-
TEL B) ESSENTIALLY ACCEPTING US PROPOSAL FOR COMMON UNDER-
STANDING THAT SS-16 THIRD STAGE, REENTRY VEHICLE, AND
APPROPRIATE DEVICE FOR TARGETING RV WOULD NOT BE PRODUCED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 01293 271837Z

2. MY STATEMENT (REFTEL C) PRESENTED NEW PROPOSAL FOR
ARTICLE XVI (ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM FLIGHT-TESTS)
INCLUDING AGREED STATEMENT EXEMPTING "SINGLE ICBM FLIGHT-
TESTS FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES WHICH ARE NOT PLANNED
TO EXTEND BEYOND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE PARTY
CONDUCTING THE FLIGHT-TESTS."

3. IN POST-PLENARY DISCUSSION SEMENOV EXPANDED AT LENGTH ON SOVIET RATIONALE FOR TIME NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE DISMANTLING TO ACHIEVE REDUCED AGGREGATE LEVEL. I EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT MOVED FORWARD ON AGGREGATES/REDUCTIONS ISSUES, NOTED THAT TIMING OF REDUCTIONS WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO U.S., AND SAID WE WOULD EXAMINE SOVIET COMMENTS. I ALSO REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF YOSHKAR-OLA SITUATION IN CONTEXT OF SS-16 QUESTION ALONG LINES OF REFTEL D. SEMENOV REPEATED THAT SS-16 WAS NEVER OPERATIONAL, IS NOT NOW OPERATIONAL, AND WOULD NOT BE, ADDING THAT HE BELIEVED HE COULD RETURN LATER TO THE ASPECT I HAD RAISED.

4. ROWNY/BELETSKY-USTINOV BILATERAL. BELETSKY SAID THAT A MAXIMUM OF 50 ICBM OR SLBM LAUNCHERS COULD BE DISMANTLED OR DESTROYED IN ANY SIX-MONTH PERIOD. USTINOV SAID BOTTLENECK WAS SHIPYARDS AND THAT NO MORE THAN 50 SLBM LAUNCHERS COULD BE DISMANTLED PER SIX-MONTH PERIOD. ROWNY SAID USTINOV WAS BASING 18-MONTH CALCULATION ON PRESUMPTION THAT 150 SLBM LAUNCHERS WOULD BE DISMANTLED OR DESTROYED. SOVIETS DID NOT COMMENT.

5. TOWER-JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN BILATERAL. SHCHUKIN NOTED THAT BOTH STATEMENTS WERE CONSTRUCTIVE. REFERRING TO SOVIET SATELLITE INCIDENT IN CANADA, TOWER OBSERVED THAT THIS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 GENEVA 01293 271837Z

WAS KIND OF EVENT IN WHICH PRE-NOTIFICATION COULD ALLEVIATE CONCERN. SHCHUKIN POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH DESIGN OF ISOTOPE-POWERED SATELLITES AND THAT THEY WERE DESIGNED TO BE INJECTED INTO HIGHER ORBIT IN CASE OF TROUBLE SO THAT RADIOACTIVITY WOULD HAVE TIME TO DECAY, BUT IN THIS CASE THE SYSTEM FAILED. ON MATTER OF TIMING OF DISMANTLING SHCHUKIN EMPHASIZED PROBLEM OF SUBMARINES. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF GETTING TREATY EVEN IF IT IS NOT THE ULTIMATE.

6. ELDREDGE/BEKETOV BILATERAL. BEKETOV EXPANDED ON RATIONALE FOR 18 MONTH DISMANTLING AND DESTRUCTION PERIOD. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEGUN TO DISMANTLE SUBMARINES AND ARE FINDING IT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT. HE USED EXAMPLE OF NEW DELTA III SSBN WITH 16 LAUNCHERS, WHICH REQUIRED D&D OF 5 PLUS HOTEL SSBNs. COUNTERING ELDREDGE'S ARGUMENT THAT BETTER ORGANIZATION OR ALTERED PRIORITIES COULD SPEED UP D&D, HE LAUNCHED INTO EXTENDED LECTURE ON SOVIET NEED TO CATCH UP IN NUMBERS OF RVS AND THAT THEREFORE, NEW CONSTRUCTION AND OVERHAUL ACTIVITIES NEEDED CONTINUED EMPHASIS. IN LATER DISCUSSION, HE ADVANCED LOGIC THAT YANKEE SSBNs WERE NEW SHIPS AND WOULD

BE CONVERTED TO OTHER USES RATHER THAN DISMANTLED IN
LATER REDUCTIONS.

7. NEXT PLENARY TUESDAY, JANUARY 31. EARLE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA01293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780041-0385
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780115/aaaaammn.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c8b370df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 SALT TALKS 1585, 78 SALT TALKS 1586
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3703078
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS ON PLENARY, JANUARY 27, 1978 (SALT TWO 1583)
TAGS: PARM, SZ, (SEMENOV, V S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c8b370df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014